(b) the number of applications for seed trails pending with Government as on 1st October, 2005;

(c) the areas selected for genetically modified seed trials;

(d) whether Government have prepared any report on Bt. Cotton, so far; and

(e) the area under this cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of the trials of Salinger Cotton seed of Monsanto. As per the information provided by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, no application from M/s Monsanto for trial of Salinger Cotton seed is pending with them.

(c) Depending upon the intended use and introduction into the given agro-climatic condition, the suitable agro-climatic areas are selected for genetically modified seed trials.

(d) and (e) The Government has prepared a report on a area under cultivation of Bt. Cotton which is as under:—

States	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640
TOTAL	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359

Refusing delivery of sugarcane to mills by farmers in Maharashtra

1069. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane growers in many districts of Maharashtra are refusing to deliver their sugarcane to cooperative sugar factories since these factories under instruction from Government of Maharashtra, are offering to pay a very low prices for the sugarcane; and

(b) whether due to this scuffles are taking place at several places between the harvesting labour let loose by the sugarcane factories and the cane-growing farmers which threatens the social harmony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per the report received from the State Government of Maharashtra, the Minister's Committee for the State of Maharashtra have decided that the sugar mills in the State should pay first instalment of sugarcane price to the sugarcane suppliers as below:

(i) Sugar mills falling in the region(s) other than Marathwada and Vidarbha - Rs. 850/- per M.T.

(ii) Sugar mills falling in the regions of Marathwada and Vidarbha Region - Rs 800/- per PMT.

(iii) However, in respect of the mills of other region, if there is possibility of violation of NABARD's norms that sugar mill shall be at liberty to pay first instalment of Rs. 750/- M.T. instead of Rs. 800/- M.T. After payment of first instalment concerned sugar mills are at liberty to pay higher cane price than SMP as per their financial results, subject to the fulfillment of NABARD's conditions regarding restructuring of term loans. The first instalment is in line with the payment of SMP under Sugarcane (Control) Order and guidelines of NABARD for the restructuring package.

(b) All the sugar factories in Maharashra are crushing normally, since 25.11.2005

Msp for Wheat and Onion

†1070. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have contemplated to increase the minimum support price for wheat;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the minimum support price of other agricultural products, particularly onion for which there was acute shortage in the country and as a result thereof its price increases also, so that incentives could be given to onion producers and its shortage could be met; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereon?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.